

**Opinion essay:** ‘An mp3 player is something to be enjoyed at home. They should be banned in public places.’ What do you think?

Mp3 players are very popular, and many people enjoy using them outdoors, especially when they’re travelling. But some people think they should be banned in public places.

When you’re listening to an mp3 player, you pay less attention to the environment around you. Some people have been in traffic accidents because they didn’t look where they were going.

Some people also think that listening to an mp3 player in public is rude. People are less sociable when they’re wearing headphones, and the sound of their music can be annoying.

However, in my opinion, we shouldn’t ban mp3 players from public places. Most people use these gadgets responsibly, and we shouldn’t punish everyone just because a few users are careless or selfish.

**Semi-formal letter:** A local newspaper wants to hear people’s suggestions on how to make your town or city a safer place. Write to the editor, describing what you think the main problems are in your town and what you think the local authorities should do.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to give you my opinions on making our town a safer place.

Although some areas have problems with crime, I believe that the biggest problem in our town is too much traffic. There are lots of cars in the town centre, especially at rush hour, and there are not enough safe places to cross the road.

I believe that we urgently need to have more road crossings, if we want to reduce the number of traffic accidents. In my opinion, the government should also consider banning cars on the high street, to make it a more enjoyable place for shopping. This would help to reduce pollution, too.

Yours faithfully,

José Gonzalez

**Opinion essay:** Is playing games only fun when you win?

Most people enjoy playing games, whether they win or not. In fact, they usually play them for a lot of reasons and winning is just one of them.

Taking part in team games is a good way of making friends and having a good time. Although most players want to win, they also take a lot of pleasure from playing. And when a team loses, if the players have done their best, they will be satisfied with their performance.

In fact when winning becomes the only objective, games stop being fun. Every mistake is criticized and in teams a bad spirit quickly develops. In conclusion, if a person wants to enjoy games, they need to realize that winning isn’t everything.

**Discussion essay:** What are the advantages and disadvantages of young children spending their free time doing sport?

With the increase in the number of young people who are overweight, children’s sport has become more important than ever. However, children’s sports activities have become very organized and competitive. Is this a good thing?

Nobody would argue that doing sport is good from a health point of view. Furthermore, by doing team sports, children make friends and learn to work together.

However, some children’s sports coaches put a lot of pressure on their players to compete and win. This pressure can put less talented children off sport.

In conclusion, I think if sport is promoted in the right spirit, it can only be good for children. It will make them healthier, more sociable and happier.